

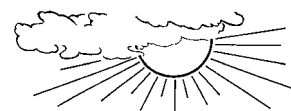


National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Statistical Office

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
Marc Tosiano, Director

717-787-3904
Fax: 717-782-4011
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov
www.usda.gov/nass

USDA in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture - - - providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S.



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending April 3, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 4, 2005, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Poor Week for Field Work: April showers have started, and kept farmers out of the field in the Keystone State. Top soil moisture was rated at 11 percent adequate, and 89 percent surplus, with flooding reported from all over the state. The spring plowing was estimated at only 3 percent complete for the state. Overall, only 1 day was suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included feeding livestock, spreading lime, spreading manure, spring tillage, planting of oats, pruning fruit trees, repairing fences and machinery, preparing for spring planting.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for
Week Ending April 3, 2005**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	11	89

Crops: Much of the state saw rain or snow this last week, which hindered the field work that could be done. The only significant planting that was accomplished was oats which were 5 percent planted, compared to 7 percent for a 5-year average. Hay fields were greening up with the small amount of sunshine that got through all the clouds. Alfalfa was estimated to be 1 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 46 percent good, and only 7 percent excellent. Timothy clover stand also rated at 1 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

Livestock: Farmers are rotating animals from field to field throughout the state. Some farmers have moved their cattle out to spring pasture, which was rated at 33 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

U.S. As of March 27, 2005: Highlights: Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the Southeast and

Mississippi Delta, while frequent rainstorms in the region severely hampered fieldwork. Elsewhere across the nation, temperatures averaged below normal. Light to moderate precipitation fell in the southern half of the Corn Belt, in the Ohio Valley, and along the middle Atlantic Coast, while the northern Corn Belt was mostly dry. The Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains experienced the heaviest and most widespread precipitation since early December. Soil moisture conditions improved in the region, but more rainfall will be needed to reach adequate levels. Only light rain fell in the Southwest, while moderate precipitation occurred in the central Rocky Mountains. Meanwhile, snow in the northern Great Plains provided temporary protection from cold weather but was mostly melted by week's end, slightly increasing low soil-moisture levels.

Crop Progress Reporters Wanted!

We need crop progress reporters for the **2005** crop year! It's the reports of farmers, ranchers, and government agencies that make this possible each week, and we **need more reporters!**

Must have:

- Internet access and e-mail
- Knowledge of the crops grown in the county being reported.
- A desire to be a service to Agriculture in Pennsylvania!

Please e-mail: nass-pa@nass.usda.gov subject: Crop Reporter or call 1-800-498-1518.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 3, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 3, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	71	32	46	6	1.30	2	46.61	4.79	168	2,856	191	5,086
Franklin	68	30	45	5	1.83	4	51.28	14.42	157	2,640	217	4,786
Meadville	70	30	45	6	1.01	4	42.74	5.83	134	2,486	269	4,572
Mercer	73	22	44	4	2.10	4	53.70	11.52	171	2,076	-322	4,123
Springboro	70	29	45	5	1.93	3	57.33	19.02	196	2,418	-188	4,536
Warren	68	30	45	6	1.56	4	60.41	18.19	187	2,465	136	4,577
North Central												
Bradford Region	58	28	42	6	1.09	4	39.75	-5.27	164	2,011	356	3,992
Emporium	63	32	45	7	1.58	4	56.07	13.74	183	2,608	723	4,692
Kane	63	27	42	6	1.28	4	54.37	8.40	173	1,250	-364	2,975
Laporte	59	31	41	1	4.95	6	74.70	34.16	199	2,218	-159	4,156
Lock Haven	65	31	46	4	3.10	4	64.88	25.63	138	2,944	400	5,166
Port Allegany	62	29	43	5	1.26	4	50.55	9.69	175	2,174	338	4,163
Renovo	64	32	46	4	2.22	4	55.28	15.79	177	2,854	310	5,061
Ridgway	66	28	44	6	1.28	4	56.54	14.48	153	2,149	264	4,177
Stevenson Dam	65	34	46	8	2.09	4	56.65	14.06	165	2,705	820	4,868
Towanda	63	32	44	4	4.62	4	53.85	20.24	160	2,728	330	4,847
Wellsboro	60	28	41	4	3.25	5	59.03	26.79	172	2,117	337	4,080
Williamsport	64	30	46	3	5.06	4	58.25	17.65	163	3,123	321	5,411
Northeast												
Hawley	63	26	41	2	5.73	4	62.63	23.55	125	2,309	268	4,276
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	63	28	43	2	4.82	5	52.59	16.16	144	2,851	204	5,056
Susquehanna	61	30	43	6	4.79	4	61.95	19.84	162	2,763	840	4,823
West Central												
Butler	73	31	48	6	2.02	4	57.01	18.00	195	2,632	108	4,834
New Castle	75	32	48	8	2.53	4	49.66	16.37	134	2,943	419	5,131
Slippery Rock	73	32	49	9	2.48	4	59.05	19.03	188	2,757	500	5,027
Central												
Altoona/Blair	63	33	45	3	1.93	4	49.95	12.85	161	2,811	129	5,048
DuBois	63	30	45	5	1.60	4	55.97	13.76	205	2,435	158	4,587
Lewistown	66	34	47	3	3.26	4	54.36	15.92	142	3,151	203	5,467
Middletown	63	36	48	2	4.27	4	59.75	18.96	148	3,640	290	6,144
Prince Gallitzi	65	27	44	3	1.79	4	54.93	7.38	164	2,437	308	4,526
Selinsgrove	64	32	45	3	5.86	4	60.51	20.11	152	3,002	274	5,235
State College	63	32	45	4	2.49	4	56.39	18.63	159	2,886	263	5,116
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	64	33	47	3	5.59	5	59.34	15.50	139	3,265	216	5,626
Lehighton	64	32	46	2	7.20	4	67.18	26.49	143	2,832	-103	5,027
Matamoras	65	29	44	2	6.51	6	59.67	15.62	150	2,510	-103	4,573
Tobyhanna	62	32	45	8	5.04	5	59.42	20.39	144	2,462	717	4,520
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	74	32	51	8	1.79	4	51.27	12.25	179	3,251	531	5,694
Derry	69	33	48	6	2.84	4	66.64	27.30	176	2,864	308	5,225
Myersdale	63	29	43	0	2.37	4	51.54	6.99	160	2,274	-245	4,421
Mount Pleasant	73	32	49	9	1.52	4	60.88	14.66	161	2,829	554	5,171
Pittsburgh Intl	74	32	51	6	1.59	4	51.62	14.46	173	3,270	418	5,695
Rector	68	32	46	6	2.45	4	49.87	14.79	142	2,837	562	5,002
Waynesburg	75	31	47	4	1.97	4	56.75	17.81	171	2,955	329	5,298
South Central												
Biglerville	64	34	47	2	3.79	5	57.49	21.38	146	3,286	7	5,644
Everett	64	33	45	2	3.07	4	51.79	15.77	145	2,467	-207	4,644
Hanover	64	33	47	2	3.47	4	53.97	15.13	133	3,400	121	5,792
Shippensburg	65	34	47	0	4.00	4	59.04	25.93	130	3,457	192	5,807
South Mountain	64	35	47	4	4.07	5	56.63	19.93	127	2,715	56	4,843
York	64	32	48	2	3.97	4	47.56	6.82	128	3,419	138	5,876
Southeast												
Green Lane	62	34	47	3	6.50	5	62.53	20.68	137	3,598	693	5,941
Hamburg	64	33	47	5	4.40	5	57.61	10.16	149	3,269	662	5,602
Hopewell	62	34	47	0	4.49	4	50.92	17.66	127	3,320	-154	5,601
Lancaster	62	35	48	3	3.74	4	52.47	10.93	146	3,429	346	5,882
Neshaminy Falls	63	31	46	1	4.56	4	60.72	13.36	131	3,600	558	6,029
New Holland	65	36	47	3	4.34	4	57.12	15.87	148	3,401	318	5,824
Philadelphia	62	35	49	3	4.52	5	54.22	12.47	136	4,045	434	6,667
Philadelphia NE	64	35	49	3	4.32	4	57.03	15.28	140	3,899	288	6,494
Reading	65	34	48	5	4.18	5	55.59	10.54	145	3,473	466	5,911
Valley Forge Na	70	29	47	0	5.84	4	63.26	19.43	120	3,424	-50	5,760
Willow Grove	62	34	48	3	4.48	4	46.70	0.28	140	3,592	550	6,088

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - - Bucks/Montgomery counties have experienced excessive rainfall for the previous week that has caused flooding of streams, rivers and low laying areas. It will be at least 1 week until fields can be considered capable of working for any reason.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - - It's too early to report much activity at this time. Although we enjoyed three beautiful days of nice weather, it was followed by heavy rains and then 4 inches of snow with blustering wind. Most field work consist of getting orders in for seed, fertilizer, and lime and cleaning debris off of the fields from the winter storms.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (Ag Choice) - - Need drying conditions. With high input costs, getting crops planted timely will be critical.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - - Lime trucks were starting to run on the drier fields this week but most of the county is still too wet. Farmers have been hitting the weekend auctions in search of needed equipment or just good deals.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tim Mussmon (Ag Choice) - - Fields are very wet. Extreme amount of water laying in fields due to rainfall Friday night and Saturday.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - - Heavy rains coming on soil already saturated has resulted in much runoff and gutter erosion. Grass and small grain fields have come along quite a way in greening up.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - - Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Warren Counties had a blast of rain with minor flooding; with 6 to 10 inches of snow Saturday evening through Sunday and the 25 degree temperature slowed the snow melting. This should keep the streams from flooding low land areas.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - - Just a touch on wet side here.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - - Soil conditions extremely wet. Early spring work like manure hauling, oats planting, and small grain sidedressing is falling behind. I have also seen lots of alfalfa plants that have heaved out of the soil.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - - First report for the season, the week started and ended wet with flood warnings and watches. I hope this is not an omen for another bad spring and summer.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - - Excessive rainfall and flooding has delayed the start of spring field work.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - - Heavy rains on Monday into Tuesday a.m., limited the field activities to manure spreading on the well drained areas. The winter grain is beginning to show signs of growth; however, in the poorly drained areas, there is significant winter kill. The principal activities for the past week were machinery maintenance, spreading manure and trimming brush.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - - The snow is melting. The only field work being considered is frost seeding in old pasture fields. It is hard to imagine that in four short weeks corn will be planted.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA) - - Tioga County is very, very wet. We received 3+ inches of rain the first weekend in April. It then turned to 4-5 inches of snow in Wellsboro and outlying areas. Streams ran full and some flooding was reported in low areas. Far too wet to even think about spring plowing -- still winter in north central PA, although we enjoyed some spring-like temperatures last week before the rain and snow.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Robert J Graham - - Field condition are much too wet to do much, with the exception of frost seeding of alfalfa in wheat fields and a small amount spring plowing .

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - - Wet and cold start to the growing season. A small number of hill-side fields have been tilled in preparation for oats planting. Most fields are still too wet for any type activity. Some manure hauling has been completed. Grass growth has been slowed because of the cold conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 3, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	3	14	15
Oats, planted	5	3	7

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 3, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	1	20	69	10
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	1	46	46	7
Timothy clover stand	0	1	41	52	6
Pasture	33	11	41	14	1



2004 Pennsylvania Crop Weather Reporters

Below is the list of crop weather reporters who volunteered their time to submit valuable input for our 2004 Crop Weather Report. We want to express our appreciation to all of the reporters who reported their local crop conditions and progress. We also want to give a special recognition to our more consistent reporters. We apologize for any names that might be omitted.

STAR Reporters

David Stetler
John Lohr
Thomas Kerr
Russ McLucas
William Scheaffer
Paul Harrold

Gold Reporters

Juniperdale Farms
Wayne Kurtz
Jann Meyers
Mike Kerr
Jefferson FSA
Dick Decker
Dolly Little
Lee Varner
Andrew Frankenfield
Ron McCorkle
William Keeney

Honorable Mention

Charles Glasser
David Swartz
John Johnston
Randall Ranck
Martin Friedman
Karl Kroeck
Michael Fournier
Lynn Kime/Tara Baugher
Leonard Cottom
Earl Long
Paul Benchoff
Alex Linde
Pamela Barnes
Clair Zerby
John Esslinger
John Wataha
Eric Oesterling



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

United States
Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Pennsylvania Statistical Office
2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38